

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAMA 01255 060626Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HEW-04 /063 W
-----081525 060630Z /11/43

R 050505Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6240
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY LAGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1255

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, BA
SUBJECT: ILO 1978 CONFERENCE: VIEWS OF HEAD OF BAHRAIN DELEGATION

REF: STATE 127537

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1. KHALIFA KHALFAN, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OF LABOR AND ISLAMIC
AFFAIRS' LABOR DEPARTMENT, WILL HEAD BAHRAIN'S DELEGATION.
HE RECENTLY SOUGHT U.S. VIEWS FROM AMBASSADOR WHO BRIEFED
HIM USING POINTS MADE IN REFTEL. KHALIFA SAID HE HAD BEEN
IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH KUWAITI AND SAUDI DELEGATIONS IN ORDER
COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS BEFORE MEETING OF ALL ARAB DELS
JUST PRIOR TO OPENING OF CONFERENCE. KHALFAN SAID ALL THREE

DELEGATIONS WANT TO WORK TO KEEP POLITICS OUT OF CONFERENCE, THOUGH HE EXPECTS THAT THERE WILL AGAIN BE ATTEMPTS BY OTHER ARABS TO PUSH STRONG ANTI-ISRAELI MOVES. KHALFAN DEPLORED THIS DIVERSION OF EFFORT AWAY FROM ILO'S "REAL BUSINESS" AND SAID THAT, FOR HIS PART, HE HOPED CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE STEPS WHICH WOULD PERMIT US TO RE-JOIN.

2. KHALFAN IS SOMETHING OF A MAVERICK IN GOB CIRCLES. HE IS KNOWN TO FAVOR ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIONS, THOUGH GOB POLICY IS AGAINST UNIONIZATION. SOME RELIABLE SOURCES BELIEVE HE COVERTLY ENCOURAGES INFORMAL WORKERS' GROUPS TO PUSH HARDER FOR THEIR RIGHTS. KHALFAN ALSO IS OFTEN CRITICAL OF STATE OF WORKERS' RIGHTS IN NEARBY COUNTRIES. HE SAID HE TOLD HIS MINISTER THAT IF ILO CONFERENCE TURNED OUT TO BE A WASTE OF TIME IN TERMS OF REALLY MOVING TOWARD IMPROVING LABOR'S LOT, HE WOULD NOT GO AGAIN. WE BELIEVE KHALFAN WOULD BE WORTHWHILE CONTACT FOR USDEL.
CLUVERIUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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